



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/550,834	06/09/2006	Marcel Vos	104991-160608	1758
24964	7590	04/28/2009	EXAMINER	
GOODWIN PROCTER LLP			OJURONGBE, OLATUNDE S	
ATTN: PATENT ADMINISTRATOR				
620 Eighth Avenue			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
NEW YORK, NY 10018			1796	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			04/28/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/550,834	VOS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	OLATUNDE S. OJURONGBE	1796

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-35 and 37-52 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-35 and 37-52 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 12/29/2008 has been entered. Claims 1-35 and 37-52 are pending.
2. Prior to issuance, the following errors in the application have to be corrected by the applicants.

Abstract

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract recites "...a structural unit of the formula (I) (I) which process comprises the step of reacting:a polyacid of formula (II) (II) with a polyacyloxsilyl derivative of formula (III) (II) whilst removing the formed acid group(s) of formula (IV) and (V) and (VI), R₇Z(O)OH(IV), R₉Z(O)OH(V), R₈Z(O)OH(VI) from the system".

The presence of the underlined (I) and (II) in the disclosure makes the abstract confusing. Moreover, the underlined "which" and semicolon are wrongly placed in the disclosure, thereby making the statement grammatically wrong. The underlined "and" is redundant and should be replaced with a comma. Furthermore, it is unclear whether

Art Unit: 1796

R₇Z(O)OH(IV), R₉Z(O)OH(V) and R₈Z(O)OH(VI) are the formed acid group(s) of formula (IV), (V) and (VI).

Specification

4. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Objections

5. Claims 1, 21 and 26 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 26 recites “and y represents a number of silyl ester repeat units from 2 to 100000”; since y also represents siloxy ester, the underlined statement should be deleted for simplicity purpose.

Claim 1, line 27 recites “which process comprises the step of reacting:,”. The underlined “which” and semicolon are wrongly placed in the claim.

Claim 1, lines 35-38 recite “except R₁, R₂, R₄ and R₅ in (III) are -O-Z(O)-R₈, where R₈ is defined as in R₇ below, when the equivalent group in (I) is -O-Z(O)-L-, and R₇ is a hydrogen atom, an aralkyl, aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or alkyl group”. The above statement is grammatically wrong and makes the limitation confusing.

Claim 1, line 41 recites “whilst removing the formed acid group(s) of formula (IV) and (V) and (VI). The underlined “and” is redundant and should be replaced with a comma; “whilst” should be changed to “while”.

Claim 21 recites “wherein L represents an alkyl, aryl., alkenyl”, the period after aryl should be deleted from the claim.

Claim 26 recites “A process as claimed in claim 25”, for consistency purpose, this should be changed to “A process according to claim 25”. Furthermore, the period after decane should be deleted from the claim.

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 1796

7. **Claims 1-35 and 37-52** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, lines 5-11 recite "wherein R₄ and R₅ may be hydroxyl or may be independently selected from....-L'-SiR₄R₅R₁₀, -L'-(SiR₄R₅L')_n-SiR₁R₂-, alkenyl, alkynyl, aralkyl or aralkyloxy radicals"; it is unclear what R₄ and R₅ are because the applicants use "may be" instead of "is" and include -L'-SiR₄R₅R₁₀ and -L'-(SiR₄R₅L')_n-SiR₁R₂ in the groups from which R₄ and R₅ can be selected. Furthermore, the underlined "or" should be "and".

The examiner notes the use of "may..be" throughout claim 1, "may..be" should be changed to "is" wherever it appears in the claim. Since the term "may be" is not a definitive statement, and can include the possibility of "may not be" or "may be" other things.

Claim 1, line 11 recites "R₄ and/or R₅ may independently be an -O-Z(O)-L-group", it is unclear what limitation the applicants try to set because -O-Z(O)-L- depicts a divalent group whereas according to formula (I), R₄ and/or R₅ are monovalent groups. Similar error occurs for the definition of R₁ and R₂ in the claim.

Claim 1 lines 18-22 recite "wherein L represents a hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl group, wherein said substituted hydrocarbyl is substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting....", it is unclear what limitation the applicants try to set because the listed groups that follow this statement are monovalent groups, whereas L as depicted in formula (I) is divalent. While making

changes to correct this error, the applicants should note that formula (II) requires that L be monovalent.

Claim 1, line 22 recites “or a polymer with pendant acid groups”, it is unclear whether the polymer with pendant acid groups of the claim is an example of L or a substituent on the substituted hydrocarbyl group.

Claim 1, line 23 recites “L’ represents O, S, NR₆, or L-(NR₆-L)_p”, L’ cannot be L-(NR₆-L)_p, since L' is a divalent group whereas L is a monovalent group.

Dependent claims 2-35 and 37-52 are rejected for the same reasons.

Claims 3, 7 and 34 recite -L’-(SiR₄R₅L’)_n-SiR₁R₂ as an option for R₄ and R₅, these claims are unclear for the same reason stated above.

Claims 22, and 48-50 recite the limitation “wherein L represents -(CH₂)_n” . There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 27 recites the limitation “wherein the solvent forms a heterogeneous low boiling aze trope with the distilled acid product” in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 28 recites “wherein the molar ratio of the reactive groups present in the polyacyloxsilyl derivative acid is between 1:100 and 100:1”. It is unclear whether this ratio is between a set of reactive group to another set of reactive group within the polyacyloxsilyl derivative acid, or that the ratio is between the reactive groups of the polyacyloxsilyl derivative acid to other reactants of the composition.

Claim 34 recites “independently selected from alkyl, aryl, alkoxyl, ...or aralkyloxyl radicals”; the underlined “or” should be changed to “and”. Claim 34 further recites that

Art Unit: 1796

R₁ or R₂/R₄ or R₅ may independently be an –O-C(O)-L- group. It is unclear what limitation the applicants try to set because “may” is used instead of “is”, moreover, –O-C(O)-L- is a divalent group whereas R₁, R₂, R₄ and R₅ are monovalent groups.

Claims 37-39 and 44 recite “prepared or obtainable by a process”, the use of the words “obtainable” and “a” make the claims obscure.

8. Upon correcting the above errors in the claims, the applicants should make appropriate changes in the specification.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to OLATUNDE S. OJURONGBE whose telephone number is (571)270-3876. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7.15am-4.45pm, EST time, Alt Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy Gulakowski can be reached on (571)272-1302. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1796

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

O.S.O.

/Randy Gulakowski/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796